

NMRA/NMCA All-Star Nationals, Rockingham NC

By: Mary Lenzion, www.nmcadigital.com

Photos by Kevin DiOssi and Steve Turner

The racers were masterful and the racing was mind-blowing at the Scoggin Dickey Parts Center NMRA/NMCA All-Star Nationals presented by MAHLE Motorsport, April 21-24, 2022, at Rockingham Dragway in North Carolina.

The event at The Rock replaced the NMCA and NMRA's annual stop at Atlanta Dragway, which closed last year. It promised plenty of action, and it definitely delivered, with everything from hard launches and high wheelies to exciting elapsed times and edge-of-your-seat competition.

On the Red Line Oil NMCA Muscle Car Nationals side, VP Racing Lubricants Xtreme Pro Mod racers rocketed to 3.60s and 3.70s in their commanding cars in qualifying, and among them was Derek Ward, who set the pace with a 3.67 in his Camaro. Ward hung tough all weekend, and earned a trip to the NMCA Winner's Circle and an alluring Victor Award with a 3.70 run against Tom Blincoe, who was quicker on the tree, but shook the tires to a 5.65 in his Corvette.

Mickey Thompson X275, featuring cars with small tires and turbo, superchargers, and nitrous combinations, was in action at this event, and Justin Palmer pushed to a 4.30 in his small-block Ford and ProCharger-powered Mustang to lead qualifying. He remained strong through the weekend and wound up in the final round of eliminations to face Ron Rhodes and his nitrous-gulping, leafspring-equipped Camaro. They were close on the tree, and Palmer earned the win in the exceptionally tight race with a 4.352 to Rhodes' 4.356. Fans can catch this category again at the remaining combined NMCA/NMRA events in St. Louis and Martin, Michigan.

Chuck Watson II wheeled to a wicked 7.72 in his Mustang Cobra Jet to set the pace in qualifying in Holley EFI Factory Super Cars, and he worked hard to get to the final round of eliminations. There, he lined up alongside Tripp Carter and his Mustang Cobra Jet. Watson, from the Detroit area, drove to the win with a 7.71 after Carter went red.

David Fallon Jr. flew to a 4.31 to set the pace in his Camaro in ARP Nitrous Pro Street, and the racer out of Michigan outlasted outstanding contenders to go to the final round of eliminations, where he faced fellow Michigander, Nicole Liberty-Cach and her Firebird. Fallon Jr. flew to the win with



Derek Ward

a 4.32 against Liberty-Cach's 4.50.

NMCA Edelbrock Xtreme Street and NMRA VP Racing Madditives Renegade racers joined forces for this event in North Carolina, which also served as an RTRA Ultra Street points race. NMRA standout Alton Clements cruised to a 4.57 in his Mustang to lead qualifying. Later, however, reigning NMRA Renegade champion Joel Greathouse drove to the final round of eliminations in his Mustang, and went to the NMCA Winner's Circle after piloting to a 4.61 against Becki Cram, who turned in a 4.96 in her Mustang.

Robbie Blankenship rocketed to a 7.66 in his naturally aspirated Mustang to set the pace in the rpm-loving Dart NA 10.5 category. It was multi-time champion Leonard Long, however, who landed the event win with a 7.79 in his Mustang against Tony Petrovski, who lost the brakes in his Mustang on the top end of the track in the semifinal and was able to prepare his car in time

to make it to the final round of eliminations, where he was forced to lift and losing traction off the line.

In the beautiful blue Camaro CRC she debuted this year, Haley Burkhammer hauled to a 9.81 to lead qualifying in Chevrolet Performance Stock presented by Scoggin-Dickey Parts Center. Not far behind was Glenn Pushis, and the two met in the final round of eliminations. Pushis earned a trip to the NMCA Winner's Circle and an Edelbrock Victor Award with a 9.85 in his Camaro to Haley's close 9.87.

Racers in both series will share the stage for the second time this year at the NMRA/NMCA Super Bowl of Street-Legal Drag Racing presented by Fuelab, which is sure to be spectacle, May 12-15, at World Wide Technology Raceway in Illinois.

For the complete story and results, visit www.nmcadigital.com

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